

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

Senate passed S. 870, Fire Grants and Safety Act.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S1275–S1317

Measures Introduced: Thirty-five bills and five resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 1221–1255, and S. Res. 165–169. **Pages S1293–94**

Measures Passed:

Fire Grants and Safety Act: By 95 yeas to 2 nays (Vote No. 94), Senate passed S. 870, to amend the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 to authorize appropriations for the United States Fire Administration and firefighter assistance grant programs, by the order of the Senate of Tuesday, April 18, 2023, 60 Senators having voted in the affirmative, and after taking action on the following amendments proposed thereto: **Pages S1277–85, S1285**

Rejected:

By 46 yeas to 51 nays (Vote No. 92), Van Hollen/Murkowski Amendment No. 85, to provide grants for fire station construction through the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency. (Pursuant to the order of Tuesday, April 18, 2023, the amendment having failed to achieve 60 affirmative votes, was not agreed to.) **Pages S1278–80**

By 42 yeas to 56 nays (Vote No. 93), Sullivan Amendment No. 83, relating to eligible use for grant funds. **Pages S1280–81**

Withdrawn:

Schumer Amendment No. 58, to add an effective date. **Pages S1277, S1281**

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum 30th Anniversary: Senate agreed to S. Res. 167, recognizing the 30th anniversary of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. **Pages S1286–89**

Measures Considered:

VA Medicinal Cannabis Research Act—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 326, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a study and clinical trials on the effects of cannabis on certain health

outcomes of veterans with chronic pain and post-traumatic stress disorder. **Pages S1285–86**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Joshua David Jacobs, of Washington, to be Under Secretary for Benefits of the Department of Veterans Affairs. **Page S1286**

Prior to the consideration of this motion to proceed, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S1285**

Jacobs Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Joshua David Jacobs, of Washington, to be Under Secretary for Benefits of the Department of Veterans Affairs. **Page S1285**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, and pursuant to the unanimous-consent agreement of Thursday, April 20, 2023, a vote on cloture will occur at 5:30 p.m., on Tuesday, April 25, 2023. **Page S1285**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S1285**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that Senate resume consideration of the nomination, at approximately 3 p.m., on Tuesday, April 25, 2023, and that the cloture motions filed during the session of Thursday, April 20, 2023, ripen at 5:30 p.m. **Page S1316**

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

- 6 Air Force nominations in the rank of general.
- 2 Army nominations in the rank of general.
- 2 Marine Corps nominations in the rank of general.

6 Navy nominations in the rank of admiral.

Pages S1316–17

Messages from the House: Page S1292

Measures Referred: Page S1292

Executive Communications: Page S1292

Executive Reports of Committees: Pages S1292–93

Additional Cosponsors: Pages S1294–95

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:
Pages S1295–S1307

Additional Statements: Pages S1291–92

Amendments Submitted: Pages S1307–16

Authorities for Committees to Meet: Page S1316

Record Votes: Three record votes were taken today.
(Total—94) Pages S1279, S1281, S1285

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 3:30 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Friday, April 21, 2023. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S1316.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

FARM BILL

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: Subcommittee on Conservation, Climate, Forestry, and Natural Resources concluded a hearing to examine the Farm Bill, focusing on making conservation programs work for farmers and ranchers, after receiving testimony from Paul Bruchez, Reeder Creek Ranch, Kremmling, Colorado; Ray Flickner, Flickner Farms/Flickner Innovation Farm, Wichita, Kansas; Joseluis M. Ortiz y Muniz, La Merced de San Antonio del Embudo Land Grant, Mayordomo, Acequia del Llano del Embudo, Dixon, New Mexico; Jeff Rutledge, Rutledge Farms, Newport, Arkansas, on behalf of USA Rice; and Sara Porterfield, Trout Unlimited, Boulder, Colorado.

APPROPRIATIONS: HUD

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2024 for the Department of Housing and Urban Development, after receiving testimony from Marcia L. Fudge, Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

USINDOPACOM AND USFK POSTURE

Committee on Armed Services: Committee concluded open and closed hearings to examine the posture of

United States Indo-Pacific Command and United States Forces Korea in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2024 and the future years defense program, after receiving testimony from Admiral John C. Aquilino, USN, Commander, United States Indo-Pacific Command, and General Paul J. LaCamera, USA, Commander, United Nations Command, Commander, United States-Republic of Korea Combined Forces Command, and Commander, United States Forces Korea, both of the Department of Defense.

DOE BUDGET

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2024 for the Department of Energy, after receiving testimony from Jennifer M. Granholm, Secretary of Energy.

GAO 2023 HIGH RISK LIST

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine Government Accountability Office's 2023 High Risk List, focusing on recommendations for reducing waste, fraud, and abuse, after receiving testimony from Gene L. Dodaro, Comptroller General of the United States, Government Accountability Office.

NOMINATION

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nomination of Julie A. Su, of California, to be Secretary of Labor, after the nominee, who was introduced by Senator Padilla, testified and answered questions in her own behalf.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee ordered favorably reported the nominations of Monica Ramirez Almadani, and Wesley L. Hsu, both to be a United States District Judge for the Central District of California, Jeffrey Irvine Cummings, and LaShonda A. Hunt, both to be a United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois, Michael Farbiarz, and Robert Kirsch, both to be a United States District Judge for the District of New Jersey, Orelia Eleta Merchant, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of New York, and Todd Gee, of the District of Columbia, to be United States Attorney for the Southern District of Mississippi, and William R. Hart, to be United States Marshal for the District of New Hampshire, Department of Justice.

OLDER WORKERS

Special Committee on Aging: Committee concluded a hearing to examine dismantling barriers and building economic resilience for older workers, after receiving testimony from Ernest Gonzales, New York University Silver School of Social Work Center for Healthy Aging Innovation, New York, New York;

Liya Palagashvili, George Mason University Mercatus Center, Arlington, Virginia; Christine Vanlandingham, Region IV Area Agency on Aging, Hartford, Michigan; and Dave McLimans, United Steel, Paper and Forestry, Rubber, Manufacturing, Energy, Allied Industrial and Service Workers International Union, Parkesburg, Pennsylvania, on behalf of Steelworker Organization of Active Retirees.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 61 public bills, H.R. 2733–2793; and 7 resolutions, H. Res. 310–316, were introduced. **Pages H1906–09**

Additional Cosponsors: **Page H1912**

Reports Filed: There were no reports filed today.

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Flood to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H1889**

Recess: The House recessed at 9:35 a.m. and reconvened at 10 a.m. **Page H1893**

Protection of Women and Girls in Sports Act of 2023: The House passed H.R. 734, to amend the Education Amendments of 1972 to provide that for purposes of determining compliance with title IX of such Act in athletics, sex shall be recognized based solely on a person's reproductive biology and genetics at birth, by a yea-and-nay vote of 219 yeas to 203 nays, Roll No. 192. Consideration began yesterday, April 19th. **Pages H1890–93, H1893–96**

Rejected the Balint motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Education and the Workforce by a yea-and-nay vote of 204 yeas to 218 nays, Roll No. 191. **Pages H1894–95**

Agreed to:

Ogles amendment (No. 2 printed in H. Rept. 118–37) that clarifies that the term “athletic programs and activities” includes any activities a recipient chooses to restrict only to members of a team; and **Pages H1892–93**

Mace amendment (No. 1 printed in H. Rept. 118–37) that requires the Comptroller General shall carry out a study to determine the meaning of the phrase ‘any other benefit’ as used in subsection (d)(3) by looking at the adverse psychological, developmental, participatory, and sociological results to girls of allowing males to compete, be members of a sports team, or participants in athletic programs, that are designed for girls, including hostile environ-

ment creation, sexual assault, and sexual harassment (by a recorded vote of 216 yeas to 205 nays, Roll No. 190). **Pages H1893–94**

H. Res. 298, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 734) and the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 42) was agreed to Tuesday, April 18th.

Meeting Hour: Agreed by unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 11 a.m. on Monday, April 24th. **Page H1896**

Quorum Calls—Votes: Two yea-and-nay votes and one recorded vote developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H1893–94, H1894–95, and H1895–96.

Adjournment: The House met at 9 a.m. and adjourned at 12:46 p.m.

Committee Meetings

APPROPRIATIONS—AIR FORCE AND SPACE FORCE MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND FAMILY HOUSING

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies held a budget hearing on the Air Force and Space Force Military Construction and Family Housing. Testimony was heard from Ravi I. Chaudhary, Assistant Secretary of the Air Force, Energy, Installations, and Environment, Department of the Air Force; Bruce E. Hollywood, Associate Chief Operations Officer, Office of the Chief Operations Officer, U.S. Space Force; and Brigadier General Brian S. Hartless, Air Force Director of Civil Engineers, Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics, Engineering and Force Protection, U.S. Air Force.

APPROPRIATIONS—DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies held a budget hearing on the Department of Transportation. Testimony was heard

from Pete Buttigieg, Secretary, Department of Transportation.

CHINA'S POLITICAL PRISONERS: WHERE'S GAO ZHISHENG?

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations held a hearing entitled “China’s Political Prisoners: Where’s Gao Zhisheng?”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on the Judiciary: Full Committee concluded a markup on H.R. 2640, the “Border Security Enforcement Act of 2023”; and H.J. Res. 44, providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives relating to “Factoring Criteria for Firearms

with Attached ‘Stabilizing Braces’”. H.R. 2640 was ordered reported, as amended. H.J. Res 44 was ordered reported, without amendment.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR FRIDAY, APRIL 21, 2023

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

House

No hearings are scheduled.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10 a.m., Friday, April 21

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

11 a.m., Monday, April 24

Senate Chamber

Program for Friday: Senate will meet in pro forma session.

House Chamber

Program for Monday: House will meet in Pro Forma session at 11 a.m.

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